

What is claimed:

1. A device for retracting body skin folds during diagnostic or surgical  
5 procedures comprising:  
an elongated element adapted to be removably mounted to a diagnostic or surgical  
procedure table;  
an elongate arm adapted to be slidably mounted on said elongated element, said  
elongate arm having a plurality of open channels;  
10 a plurality of flexible elements adapted to be received on said elongate arm; and  
a gripping device connected to each of said plurality of flexible elements, where  
said gripping device grasps and retracts body skin folds during diagnostic or surgical  
procedures.
- 15 2. The device according to claim 1 wherein said flexible elements comprise a  
plurality of raised portions adapted to be received by said open channels.
3. The device according to claim 2 wherein said raised portions define  
generally a circular area.  
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4. The device according to claim 1 wherein said elongate arm defines  
generally a curved area.
5. The device according to claim 1 wherein said gripping device is  
25 bifurcated.
6. The device according to claim 1 further comprising a material covering  
said gripping device.
- 30 7. The device according to claim 6 wherein said material is made of an  
elastomeric material.

8. The material according to claim 6 wherein said material is replaceable.

9. A method for retracting body skin folds during diagnostic or surgical  
5 procedures, the method comprising the steps of:  
positioning a device over the body skin folds, said device comprising an  
elongated element adapted to be removably mounted to a diagnostic or surgical procedure  
table; an elongate arm adapted to be slidably mounted on said elongated element, said  
elongate arm having a plurality of open channels; a plurality of flexible elements adapted  
10 to be received on said elongate arm, said flexible elements having a plurality of raised  
portions adapted to be received by said open channels; and a gripping device connected  
to each of said plurality of flexible elements;  
grasping the body skin folds with said gripping device connected to each of said  
plurality of flexible elements; and  
15 positioning said flexible elements through said open channels of said elongate  
arm wherein said raised portions hold each flexible element in a temporary fixed position  
retracting body skin folds during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said raised portions define  
20 generally a circular area.

11. The method according to claim 9 wherein said elongate arm defines  
generally a curved area.

25 12. The method according to claim 9 wherein said gripping device is  
bifurcated.

13. The method according to claim 9 wherein said device further comprises a  
material covering said gripping device.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein said material is made of an elastomeric material.
15. The method of claim 13 wherein said material is replaceable.